

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands comprising metal wires and metal cords comprising metal wires, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes, and wherein said metal wires have a diameter between 0.1 mm and 0.4 mm.
2. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein each of said polymer tapes has an essentially rectangular cross-section.
3. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 2, wherein said cross-section has a thickness less than approximately 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 2, wherein said cross-section has a width less than approximately 10 mm.
5. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein all of said metal elements are present in said warp direction.
6. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein said metal elements are present in said warp direction, and wherein said polymer tapes are present in said weft direction.
7. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said metal elements have an inweaving factor substantially equal to 1.
8. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said metal elements are steel cords.

9. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a plain woven structure.
10. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a double weft structure worked in a plain-weave manner.
11. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein each of said metal elements is coated with a polymer layer.
12. (Original) A reinforced hose comprising:
  - a hose; and
  - a woven composite fabric as in claim 1 connected to the hose.
- 13-25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands comprising metal wires and metal cords comprising metal wires, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes having an essentially rectangular cross-section having a thickness, and wherein a distance between circumferences of two adjacent metal elements is substantially equal to the thickness of the polymer tape.
27. (Canceled)
28. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said cross-section has a thickness less than approximately 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .
29. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said cross-section has a width less than approximately 10 mm.
30. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein all of said metal elements are present in said warp direction.

31. (Currently Amended) A woven composite fabric ~~as in claim 26~~, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands and metal cords, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes, and wherein said metal elements are separated by a distance not greater than approximately 10 mm.

wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein said metal elements are present in said warp direction, and wherein said polymer tapes are present in said weft direction.

32. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements have an inweaving factor substantially equal to 1.

33. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements are steel cords.

34. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a plain woven structure.

35. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a double weft structure worked in a plain-weave manner.

36. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein each of said metal elements is coated with a polymer layer.

37. (Original) A reinforced hose comprising:

a hose; and

a woven composite fabric as in claim 26 connected to the hose.

38. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements are separated by a distance not greater than approximately 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

39-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric according to claim 1, wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than

approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction.

52. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric according to claim 1, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes having an essentially rectangular cross-section having a thickness, and wherein the distance between the circumferences of two adjacent metal elements is substantially equal to the thickness of the polymer tape.

53. (Previously Presented) A woven composite fabric according to claim 26, wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction.

54. (New) A woven composite fabric, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands and metal cords, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes, and wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction,

wherein said metal elements are present in said warp direction, and wherein said polymer tapes are present in said weft direction.

55. (New) A reinforced hose comprising:

a hose; and

a woven composite fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands and metal cords, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes, and wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction.